

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 264430

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXS, OSCI, RO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN INTEREST IN NUCLEAR COOPERATION:  
RODEAN VISIT

REFERENCE: A) BUCHAREST 5388; B) STATE 260142

1. REF A REQUESTED A REPORT ON THE RECENT VISIT TO  
WASHINGTON OF ROMANIAN STATE COMMITTEE FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY  
(SCNE) VICE PRESIDENT EMILIAN RODEAN. REF B SUMMARIZED  
OUTCOME OF OCTOBER 29 MEETING BETWEEN RODEAN AND ERDA/  
STATE/DOC OFFICIALS REGARDING GOR INTEREST IN ACQUISITION  
OF TWO CANDU NUCLEAR REACTORS AND ASSOCIATED TECHNOLOGY,  
AND SUGGESTED DESIRABILITY OBTAINING SOME ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION FROM CANADIANS CONCERNING CURRENT GOR-CANADIAN  
NEGOTIATIONS. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES FURTHER DISCUSSIONS  
BETWEEN RODEAN AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICIALS ON THE  
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SUBJECT OF THE CANDU PACKAGE, AND ALSO RODEAN'S DISCUSSIONS

WITH ERDA REGARDING NON-NUCLEAR COOPERATION AS WELL AS THE CURRENT ROMANIAN INTEREST IN POSSIBLY ACQUIRING AN HGTR REACTOR AND TECHNOLOGY FROM GULF ATOMIC.

2. ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS ON CANDU PACKAGE: WHILE RODEAN WAS CLEARLY UNHAPPY WITH OUTCOME OF HIS DISCUSSIONS OF ERDA ON OCTOBER 29, WE BELIEVE THAT MEETING WAS USEFUL FOR BOTH SIDES IN ACQUAINTING EACH WITH THE NEEDS AND

PROBLEMS OF THE OTHER. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF ROMANIANS WERE ABLE FOLLOW ERDA SUGGESTION AND REQUEST ONE OR MORE US FIRMS KNOWN TO BE INVOLVED IN CANDU PACKAGE TO MAKE FORMAL REQUEST TO ERDA FOR PART 810 AUTHORIZATION. (EMBASSY BUCHAREST MAY WISH TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS WITH THE GOR AS APPROPRIATE.) IN THE MEANTIME, WE WILL REVIEW INFORMATION WE EXPECT TO OBTAIN FROM CANADIANS AT MEETING NOW SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 25 IN ORDER TO DETERMINE MORE PRECISELY EXTENT OF CLEARANCE PROBLEM AND ITS POSSIBLE RESOLUTION, AS WELL AS OTHER ISSUES IN U.S. - CANADIAN RELATIONSHIP BEARING ON PROPOSED REACTOR AND HEAVY WATER SALES TO ROMANIA.

3. ON NOVEMBER 3 RODEAN MET WITH OES ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY KRATZER AND AMBASSADOR BARNES FOR ADDITIONAL USEFUL DISCUSSION OF CANDU REACTOR AND HEAVY-WATER TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION. WE BELIEVE THIS MEETING SERVED GREATLY TO DISPEL ANY CONCERNS OF RODEAN THAT USG HAS ANY POLICY RESERVATIONS ABOUT ROMANIAN ACQUISITION IN THE WEST OF NUCLEAR POWER CAPACITY. QUESTION OF TRANSFER OF MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY WHICH WOULD PERMIT ROMANIA TO BECOME AN EXPORTER OF SUCH REACTORS WAS CHARACTERIZED AS BEING MORE DIFFICULT ISSUE WHICH REQUIRED FURTHER USG CONSIDERATION. ASSISTANT SECRETARY KRATZER TOLD RODEAN THAT DESPITE THE COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED IN OBTAINING THE PRIOR ASSURANCES SOUGHT BY THE GOR, HE REMAINS CONVINCED THAT THE PROBLEM IS PRIMARILY PROCEDURAL AND THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE ASSURANCES THEY SEEK. KRATZER TOLD RODEAN HE BELIEVES THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN A FEW MONTHS, AND HOPES THAT THIS CAN BE DONE IN LESS TIME.

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4. HGTR-GULF ATOMIC CONTACTS: RODEAN'S TIME IN THIS US VISIT WAS COMPRESSED AND HE DID NOT SEEK TO VISIT GULF ATOMIC IN SAN DIEGO OR PEACH-BOTTOM REACTOR SITE IN PENNSYLVANIA AS EMBASSY BUCHAREST HAD BEEN TOLD HE WOULD. A PLANNED MEETING IN WASHINGTON WITH GULF ATOMIC OFFICIAL CHESWORTH WAS CANCELLED BY THE LATTER, BUT WE WERE ABLE TO TELL RODEAN THAT CHESWORTH WAS PLANNING TO

VISIT BUCHAREST IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND WOULD SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH RODEAN THERE.

5. RODEAN UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PROVISION OF AN HGTR REACTOR, EVEN FOR THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES CURRENTLY ENVISAGED BY THE GOR, WOULD REQUIRE THE PRIOR CONCLUSION OF A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH U.S. ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION. HE REAFFIRMED THAT GOR'S PRIORITY INTEREST

LIES WITH THE CANDU PACKAGE, WHICH DOES NOT. IN DISCUSSION WITH KRATZER RODEAN MENTIONED GOR INTEREST IN HGTR SMALL-SCALE APPLICATIONS TO CHEMICAL AND METALLURGICAL RESEARCH, BUT KRATZER ADVISED HIM AND WE BELIEVE RODEAN UNDERSTANDS THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO DELAY INITIATING NEGOTIATIONS ON A NUCLEAR BILATERAL UNTIL USG POLICY DECISIONS RE THE CANDU PACKAGE ARE FORMALIZED. IN ADDITION, RODEAN LEARNED THAT AS A RESULT OF RECENT CANCELLATIONS OF NUCLEAR REACTOR ORDERS, GULF ATOMIC HGTR PROGRAM FUTURE IS SO UNCERTAIN THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WHETHER PROPOSED ROMANIAN PROGRAM HAS ANY REAL PROSPECT FOR THE NEAR OR EVEN MID-FUTURE.

6. NON-NUCLEAR COOPERATION; THIRD GENERAL AREA OF INTEREST TO RODEAN WAS NON-NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH ERDA. HE PRESENTED TEN PROPOSALS FOR ERDA CONSIDERATION. THESE PROPOSALS REPRESENT A USEFUL STEP FORWARD IN IDENTIFYING AREAS OF POSSIBLE MUTUAL INTEREST, ALTHOUGH THEY DESCRIBE MORE ROMANIAN RESEARCH/DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES THAN WHAT IS ACTUALLY BEING DONE IN ROMANIA TODAY TO ACHIEVE THEM.

7. ERDA OFFICIALS PRESENT AT THE OCTOBER 29 MEETING WELCOMED GOR PROPOSALS, IDENTIFIED SEVERAL TO BE IN AREAS OF CURRENT INTEREST TO ERDA, AND PROMISED TO FOR-CONFIDENTIAL

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WARD THEM TO ERDA PROGRAM MANAGERS FOR THEIR REVIEW. IT WAS EXPLAINED TO RODEAN THAT ERDA PROGRAM MANAGERS MUST HAVE SUFFICIENT TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON WHICH TO BASE A DECISION WHETHER A BASIS FOR MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS COOPERATION EXISTS, AND THAT THE ROMANIAN PROPOSALS DELIVERED BY RODEAN STILL DO NOT PROVIDE NEEDED DATA ON THE DEPTH AND SCOPE OF CURRENT ROMANIAN R&D EFFORTS IN THE AREAS OF INTEREST TO THE GOR. HOWEVER, ERDA OFFICIALS STATED THEIR HOPE THAT ERDA WILL LIKELY FIND ONE OR MORE OF THE GOR PROPOSALS OF SUFFICIENT INTEREST TO PROPOSE INITIATING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SCIENTISTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES CURRENTLY WORKING IN THOSE AREAS.

8. NEXT STEP WILL BE ERDA REPLY TO RODEAN THROUGH EMBASSY BUCHAREST, IDENTIFYING THOSE AREAS AMONG TEN

SUGGESTED BY GOR OF MOST INTEREST TO ERDA, AND HOPEFULLY  
SUGGESTING A TECHNICAL TEAM VISIT TO THE U.S.

9. RODEAN FOR SOME REASON INITIALLY MISINTERPRETED THIS  
BASICALLY POSITIVE ERDA RESPONSE TO THE NON-NUCLEAR  
PROPOSALS HE PRESENTED, BUT WE BELIEVE SUBSEQUENT DIS-  
CUSSIONS REASSURED HIM THAT ERDA WILL REVIEW EACH PROPOSAL  
CAREFULLY, AND THAT THERE ARE LIKELY PROSPECTS FOR COLLA-  
BORATION IN ONE OR MORE OF THEM. KISSINGER

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